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A PARTIAL ECLIPSE

Mr. Gandhi's exit from the Congress of which be'ieve it or not—he was not even a "four-anna member" and yet the Generalissimo, is really no exit in the accepted sense of the term. For, the Working Committee of the Congress hope that Congressmen will render him *full* assistance in the prosecution of his mission *including the offering of civil disobedience.* Nor can the idolatrous Hindu-ridden Congress be expected to do without demi-gods of its own making. It is just a case of the dog chasing its own tail—a live vicious circle. Locked together in a loving embrace the Congress and Mr. Gandhi are executing somersaults for the last couple of years to the amusement and bewilderment of the man in the street and the world at large. They are each of them on top by turns. But whether Gandhi is on top or the Congress-minus-Gandhi, does not matter, so long as the game goes on; for, are not each of them, after all, the other side of the same picture?

The resolution of the Congress Working Committee, relieving Mr. Gandhi of the Command of the Congress and yet hoping that Congressmen will render him *full* assistance in the prosecution of his mission *including the offering of civil disobedience,* is an eloquent testimony of Congress indecision. The passion to sail in two different boats at the same time, with one foot in each one of them, may or may not be irresistible, but carried into practice the adventure must necessarily end in disaster for the rider. The trouble with the hydra-headed Congress is that it has never known its own mind, partly owing to conflicting loyalties, at times of crises. Gandhi, Nehru, Rajagopalachari and that poor "show-boy" Azad had all had their say—a discordant and unintelligible chorus, if you like. To boil the whole thing down to coherence was the unenviable task of the Congress Working Committee which, after a whole week's labours, has only been able to produce something which is neither quite here nor there and which has drawn forth a warning from Mr. Gandhi himself against "indecision at this critical period" and against Congressmen "weakly following this party or that for the sake of gaining power in the Congress.' For a party, afflicted with indecision, which, therefore, does not know its own mind, to claim to rule over and run the Government, or even to represent the different peoples, of the entire sub-continent of India is audacious in the extreme.

In another resolution they say that "only a free and independent India will be in a position to undertake the defence of the country." We agree. But what do they expect the British Government to do? Do they expect them to confer independence like a decoration and pin it on to the breast of the Rashtrapati of the Congress, of all the parties? If not, what do they themselves propose to do? Why cannot they come to a settlement with other claimants—take what is their due and let others have what is theirs and have done with it? Stubborn-headed insistence on having all or none serves the double purpose of holding up the independence of other claimants as well and of shrewdly evading the eventuality of having to help Britain in the war which, according to the Congress, is nct their war.

NOTES

Sindh's Political Orphan

A grave constitutional issue has arisen in Sindh owing to the differences between the Governor and the Ministry with regard to the exercise of Special Powers by the former. Full facts of the differences have not yet been disclosed. But the instance quoted by the Premier Alla Bux, namely the appointment of a junior English I. C. S. officer on the Lloyd Barrage instead of a senior Indian I. C. S. officer recommended by the Ministry, and his admission of the existence of humiliating conditions is sufficiently indicative of growing interference in the day-to-day administration of the province. As, under the constitution the ministries are responsible to the legislature, K. B. Alla Bux and his colleagues ought to have taken the House in full confidence and tendered their resignation instead of referring the matter to the Viceroy and the Secretary of State. But sheer love of office has impelled them to submit to the proposal of the Governor. If it were either the Congress or the League ministry the Governor would have thought a hundred times before transgressing the constitutional limits. But knowing as he does the political orphanhood of Khan Bahadur Alla Bux he acted as he did. It is no use wailing and complaining that the undertakings arrived at between the Congress and His Excellency the Viceroy with regard to the exercise of Special Powers have been disregarded. Because however much he may try to seek the protection of the Congress High Command, he cannot be treated on a par with Congressmen.

The Hindu-Muslim Problem

Referring to the Hindu-Muslim problem Mr. Yoosuf Mehr Ali in his presidential address to the seventh session of the All-India Students Conference held at Patna has stated that it was essentially the result of three factors. The first was the Government Policy. The second was the fight for political power among the intelligentsia of the different communities and the third was the comparative failure of the non-communal political organisations to approach the masses in right earnest. Mr. Mehr Ali has omitted the fourth factor—namely the all-consuming passion of the Hindus to usurp other peoples' share in the sub-continent of India with a view to dominate the whole continent. As a matter of fact this is the main cause of the Hindu-Muslim tangle and any other cause is a mere subsidiary. Mr. Mehr Ali has also stressed the need of cultural fusion between the Hindus and

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